05

OSSAN IDOL

ICHIKA KINO & MOCHIKO MOCHIDA

TOKYOPOP

ASSAN IDOL 05

MANGA ♦ ICHIKA KINO
ORIGINAL STORY ♦
MOCHIKO MOCHIDA
CHARACTER DESIGN ♦
MIZUKI SAKAKIBARA

STORY

MIROKU, A 270 LB UNEMPLOYED SHUT-IN WAS SPURRED ON BY THE POPULARITY OF HIS "LET'S TRY DANCING!" VIDEO, JOINED A GYM, GOT IN SHAPE, AND TRANSFORMED INTO A MIDDLE-AGED HUNK IN NO TIME! ALONG WITH YOICHI AND SHIJU, HE CAUGHT THE EYE OF A FAMOUS PRODUCER, MR. LAVENDER, AND THE THREE MEN SUCCESSFULLY DEBUTED AS MIYOSHI! THE EVENTS THEY PARTICIPATED IN WERE ALL HUGE SUCCESSES TOO. BUT KIRA, A MEMBER OF THE YOUNG AND SUPER-POPULAR IDOL GROUP TENKA, VIEWS MIROKU AS HIS ENEMY!

CHARACTERS

YOICHI (41)

YOICHI KISARAGI

YOICHI IS THE CEO OF A SMALL ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY. HE AND MIROKU MET AT THE GYM. HE USED TO BE AN IDOL FOR THE SHINEEZ TALENT AGENCY.

SHIJU (40)

SHIJU ONOHARA

A FORMER DANCER AND HOST, NOW UNEMPLOYED AND LEADING A LIFE ON THE EDGE. HE WAS THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED THAT MIROKU TAKE PART IN THE DANCE COMPETITION.

TENKA

KAMO LAVENDER

PRODUCER EXTRAORDINAIRE OF NATIONALLY TREASURED IDOL GROUPS SUCH AS UGUISUDANI SEVEN.

MIHACHI OSAKI

MIROKU'S OLDER SISTER WHO WAS YOICHI'S BIGGEST FAN IN HIS IDOL DAYS AND LOVES HIM EVEN NOW.

MIROKU (36)

MIROKU OSAKI

UNEMPLOYED. SHUT-IN. VIRGIN INTERNET ADDICT. WEIGHS 270 LBS. GIVES OFF PHEROMONES UNCONSCIOUSLY

HE PRESSED "UPLOAD" BY MISTAKE AND HIS "LET'S TRY DANCING!" VIDEO WENT VIRAL!

FUMI'S HERO, THE MAN WHO SAVED HER FROM A TROUBLESOME CUSTOMER, WAS ACTUALLY MIROKU BACK WHEN HE WAS CHUBBY!

FUMI

FUMI KISARAGI

YOICHI'S BUBBLY NIECE WHO WORKS AT HIS OFFICE. SHE ALWAYS PUTS HER ALL INTO HER WORK.

OSSAN IDOL

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Chapter 24

CHASE AFTER ME...

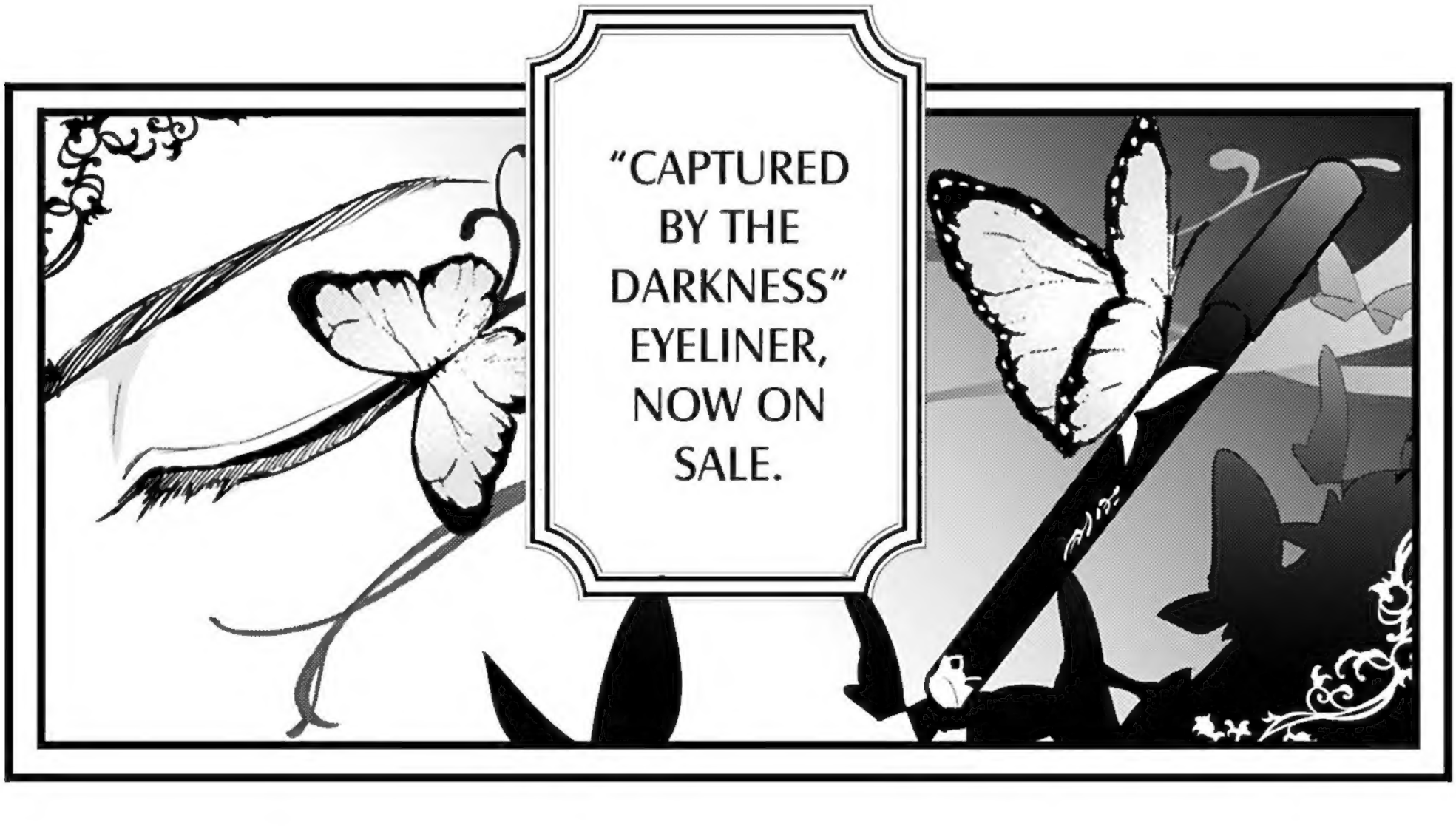
CLING TO ME.

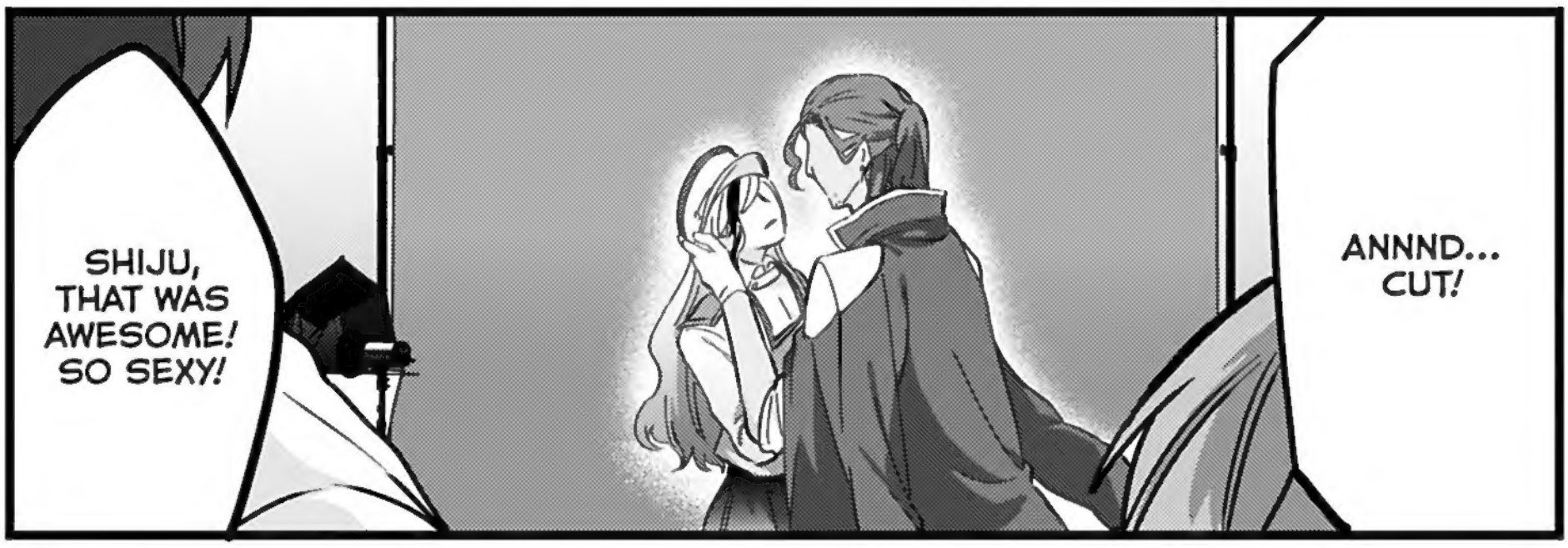
I WANT YOU.

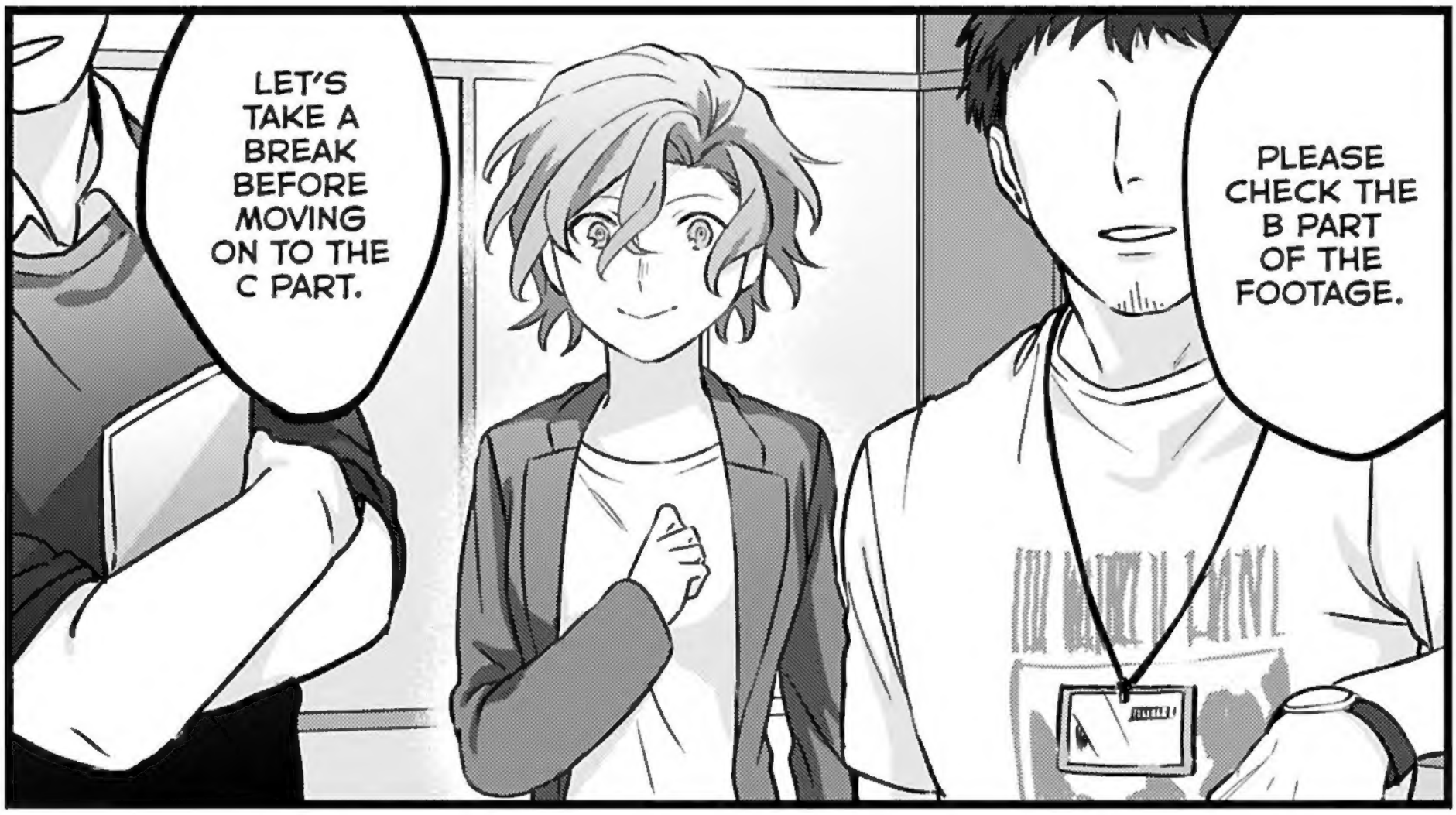
BIND
ME...

AND LOCK
ME AWAY.

MAKE
ME YOURS
ONLY.


"CAPTURED BY THE DARKNESS" EYELINER, NOW ON SALE.


SHIJU, THAT WAS AWESOME! SO SEXY!
ANNND... CUT!


LET'S TAKE A BREAK BEFORE MOVING ON TO THE C PART.
PLEASE CHECK THE B PART OF THE FOOTAGE.

HEY, FUMI.

GOOD WORK!

YES! YOU WERE VERY COOL.

IF YOU'RE WONDERING WHY THE MEMBERS OF MIYOSHI ARE WEARING THEIR MIKULOTTE Ω COSTUMES AGAIN, IT'S BECAUSE...

WHAT DID YOU THINK? MY ACTING WAS PRETTY GOOD, RIGHT?

A COMMER-CIAL?!

YOU MEAN MIHACHI'S COMPANY?

THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S THE COMPANY MR. MIMASAKA, THE FIGURE MODELER, COLLABORATED WITH BEFORE.

YES! FOR THE MAKEUP COMPANY I TOLD YOU ABOUT BEFORE.

NO, I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING...

AND MR. MIMASAKA ALSO RECOMMENDED HIM!

THEY SAID THEY WERE GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF MIROKU'S HELP.

SINCE IT'S THE SECOND ROUND OF COLLABORATION ITEMS FOR *MIKULOTTE* Ω, YOU'LL HAVE TO WEAR YOUR COSTUMES AGAIN.

YOU'VE FINALLY LEVELED UP AND BECOME STRONG ENOUGH TO MAKE MEN FALL FOR YOU...

THAT'S NOT IT!

SHIJU WILL BE PROMOTING EYELINER, YOICHI WILL BE PROMOTING EYESHADOW, AND MIROKU WILL BE PROMOTING LIPSTICK.

THE THEME IS "GIRLS AND BUTTERFLIES."

THEY'LL BE WEARING THE SAME COSTUMES AS THE *MIKULOTTE* Ω DIVAS.

YOU'LL BE FILMING THE COMMERCIAL WITH THREE YOUNG IDOLS.

schedule

YOU HAVE A POINT.

APPARENTLY, THEY WANT TO SHOW OFF CAPTIVATING, SEXY ADULTS.

WAIT... IF THAT'S THE THEME, THEN WILL WE BE THE ONES WEARING THE MAKEUP?

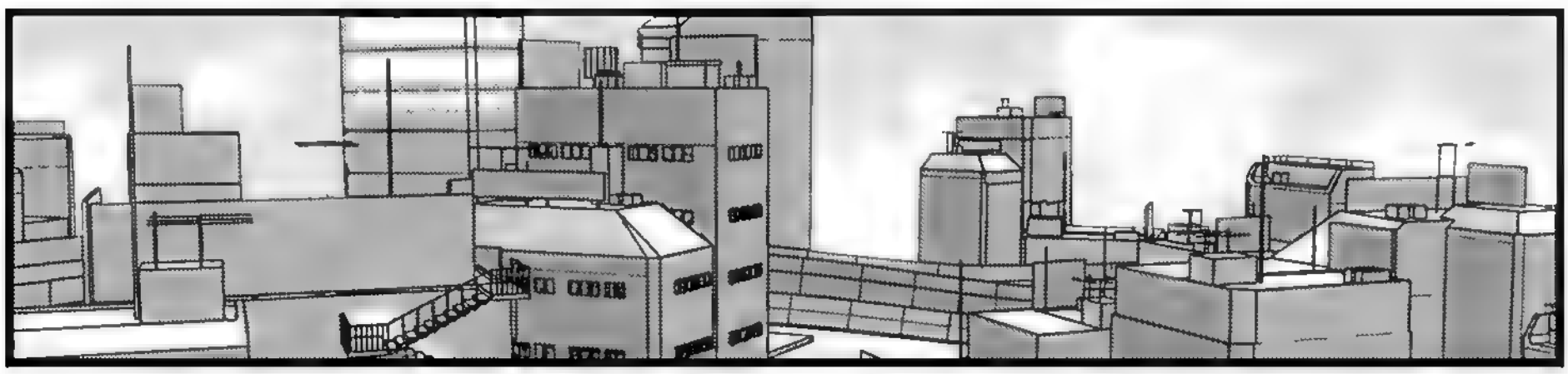
DOES THAT MEAN WE'LL BE FILMING SEPARATELY?

YES. IT'LL ALL BE FILMED ON THE SAME DAY, BUT IN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS.

IF WE'RE *LUCKY*, WE'LL JUST LOOK LIKE FATHERS AND THEIR DAUGHTERS!

BUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT OUR AGE DIFFERENCES, ONE WRONG MOVE AND THESE SHOOTS WILL LOOK LIKE CRIME SCENES...

WHAT?!
MIROKU, WILL YOU BE OKAY ALONE?
ANYWAY, ISN'T THIS THE FIRST TIME WE'LL BE FILMING SEPARATELY?
DON'T TRY TO HOG OUR MANAGER.
OF COURSE! I'LL HAVE FUMI WITH ME.



FILMING HASN'T STARTED FOR YOU, HAS IT?

HEY, FUMI.

UNC— I MEAN, YOICHI!

IS SHIJU DONE?

YES. HE DID A GREAT JOB!

I'LL BE FINE, SO I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU TO GO TO MIROKU...

BUT FIRST, LET ME SHOW OFF A LITTLE IN FRONT OF MY CUTE NIECE.

YOICHI, WE'RE READY TO START!

THAT'S GOOD.

I ALWAYS WISH TO BE...

REACH

...

BY YOUR SIDE.

ふわっ

FLUTTER

THAT IS WHAT I WISH FOR...

DESPITE BEING THE ONE WHO LEFT YOU.

I'M SURE YOU'LL BE ANGRY.

BUT I'LL
BE HAPPY IF
YOU SMILE
IN THE END.

"WAKE UP TO
A BLUE SKY"
EYESHADOW,
NOW ON SALE.

CUT!

GOOD WORK.

ALSO...

I'M SORRY FOR MY STIFFNESS. I HAVEN'T ACTED IN A WHILE.

OH! NO, UM... I SHOULD BE THE ONE SAYING THAT.

SORRY YOU HAD TO HUG AN OLD GUY LIKE ME.

HUH?!

N-NO, I'M SUPER HAPPY ABOUT IT!

SHE'S A HUGE FAN OF PRIME MINISTER YOICHI.

YOU SURE LUCKED OUT.

H-HEY, MANAGERS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO SHARE THEIR IDOLS' SECRETS!

PRIME MINISTER, HUH?

SO YOU'RE A FAN OF THE ANIME?

HOLD ON, MIU!

YOICHI, I'M GENU-INELY IN LOVE WITH YOU!

I'M SERIOUS!

I'M A FAN OF YOU IN REAL LIFE!

N-

NO!

PUSHY

YOU'RE MY IDEAL TYPE! REALLY!

I-I GET IT, SO PLEASE STEP BACK!

I'M GOING TO GET ARRESTED!

THUD

MURMUR

UNC- YOICHI, I'D BETTER GET GOING TO MIROKU'S SHOOT...

MURMUR

DON'T MIS-UNDERSTAND THINGS!

GROSSED OUT.

THINGS SEEM TO BE GOING WELL.

BUT HE ASKED ME TO BE THERE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

HA HA...

I'M SURE MIROKU WILL BE FINE EVEN WITHOUT ME...

IT SEEMS HE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL.

NEXT YOU'RE GOING TO THE YOUNGEST BOY'S SHOOT, RIGHT?

MR. LAVENDER!

YES, THIS IS–

...HUH?

BZZZ

BZZZ

EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT.

PLAYING THE HEROINE ISN'T COMING?!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN THE ACTRESS...

I JUST CALLED MIROKU'S MANAGER TO LET HER KNOW, AS WELL.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO? THE THEME IS GIRLS AND BUTTERFLIES... WE CAN'T FILM WITHOUT A GIRL!

I EVEN CALLED HER AGENCY, BUT THEY INSISTED THAT SHE HAS A COLD AND CAN'T COME.

WELL, IT'S MORE LIKE SHE'S *UNABLE* TO COME.

I'M SORRY I'M LATE!

WE'RE THE ONLY ONES LEFT...

BUT THE OTHER TWO PARTS HAVE ALREADY STARTED FILMING, RIGHT?

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO FILM ANYTHING AT THIS RATE!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

I'M MIYOSHI'S MANAGER, FUMI KISARAGI.

OH, HELLO.

SORRY FOR MAKING YOU COME HERE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE MIGHT HAVE TO CANCEL FOR TODAY.

OH... PLEASE RETHINK CANCELING!

BUT...

WELL, CONSIDERING THE THEME... WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT AN ACTRESS.

IN THAT CASE...

WHY DON'T YOU HAVE HER TAKE THE ACTRESS' PLACE?

NO WAY! I CAN'T!

N–

REALLY? WHY NOT?

URK...

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SAVE YOUR PRINCE FROM THIS LITTLE PREDICAMENT.

YOU'RE ALMOST THE SAME HEIGHT AS THE ACTRESS AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY...

FUMI!

MR. LAVENDER–

YES, SIR!

WILL YOU CALL OVER THE PERSON IN CHARGE HERE?

OH, I CHANGED INTO MY COSTUME AND GOT MY MAKEUP DONE ALREADY.

MIROKU, THOSE CLOTHES...

YOU CAME!

KER-CHAK

SORRY FOR MAKING YOU COME ALL THIS WAY FOR NOTHING.

MIROKU...

BUT I GUESS WE HAVE TO CANCEL THE SHOOT.

I LOVE THIS ANIME, SO I WAS REALLY HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO WEAR THE UNIFORM AGAIN...

CLENCH

EXCUSE ME!

IF IT'S POSSIBLE...

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO TAKE THE ACTRESS' PLACE!

I WILL!

GO OUT THERE AND SHOW THEM YOUR STUFF.

I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY THAT...

SO I GOT PERMISSION FOR YOU TO DO SO.

FUMI!

WHAT?

I MADE THEM AGREE NOT TO SHOW MY FACE. ALSO...

AS YOUR MANAGER, I'D BE FRUSTRATED IF YOUR FANS...

DIDN'T GET TO SEE YOU AS SUCH AN AMAZING PRINCE.

MR. LAVENDER TOLD ME EVERYTHING. ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

YES! I WANT TO HELP OUT.

YOU'D BE FRUS-TRATED?

THANKS.

THE ONE FOR THE COSMETICS?

HEY, DID YOU SEE THAT COMMERCIAL?!

WHO WILL YOU BE COLORED BY?

WASN'T PRINCE MIROKU AMAZING IN IT?

I CAN'T CHOOSE BETWEEN THE THREE.

YES! BUT SHIJU WAS THE SEXIEST.

I'M ALL FOR PRIME MINISTER YOICHI!

WHAT'S THEIR NAME? MIYOSHI?

I KEEP HEARING ABOUT THAT GROUP RECENTLY.

THEY GAINED SO MUCH POPULARITY AFTER THAT MAKEUP COMMERCIAL.

WHAT A GREAT RESPONSE FROM THEIR FANS!

IRK

IT WAS A GREAT COLLABORATION!

HEY THERE.

HUH?

IF IT ISN'T MIROKU'S OLDER SISTER!

MR. LADY-KILLER?

IS IT ALL RIGHT FOR YOU TO SHOW YOUR FACE IN PUBLIC SO OBVIOUSLY...

YOU'VE GOTTEN A LOT OF ATTENTION SINCE THAT COMMERCIAL AIRED.

BUT I KNOW YOICHI WOULD GET MAD AT ME.

I WISH I COULD SAY THAT I'D GLADLY WELCOME A TRYST WITH A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN...

YEAH. I'M REALLY GRATEFUL FOR IT.

?

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU TWO?

YOICHI...

THAT'S TRUE.

NO.

I JUST THOUGHT HE MIGHT PREFER A YOUNGER WOMAN...

LIKE THE ONE IN THE COMMERCIAL.

THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT.

TO ME, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR HIM.

YOU REALLY SEEM LIKE SOMEONE FROM THAT COMMER-CIAL.

HEY...

DON'T TEASE ME.

MR. LADY-KILLER, YOU SURE ARE GOOD AT FLATTERING WOMEN.

GIGGLE

YEAH.

BY THE WAY, IS THE GIRL ACTING WITH MIROKU...?

OUR MANAGER HAS BEEN USELESS FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS BECAUSE OF ALL THIS.

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT WE'D BE IN SUCH CLOSE CONTACT.

I CAN'T DO THIS. IT'S TOO EMBAR-RASSING...

I'M SORRY.

MIROKU, I TOLD YOU NOT TO GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF.

WHAT WILL YOU DO IF MY NIECE GETS ANOTHER FEVER?

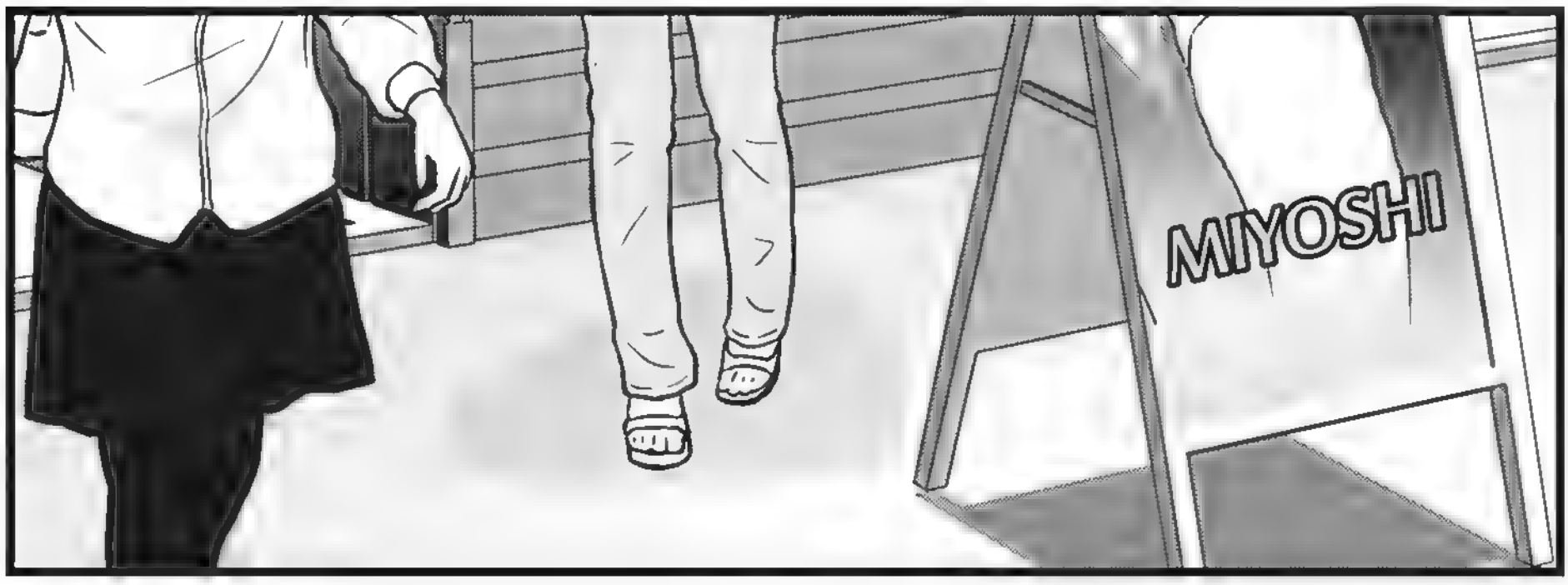
I'LL STAY BY HER SIDE AND NURSE HER BACK TO-

HMM?

I'M SORRY!

Chapter 25

MIYOSHI TALK SHOW
HERE'S... MIYOSHI!
NOW, THE MOMENT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR...
SQUEAL
MIYOSHI!
CHEER
MIYOSHI TALK S


MIYOSHI

MIYOSHI'S REALLY ON FIRE RECENTLY. THEY'RE GETTING SUPER POPULAR.

HE WAS ESPECIALLY SEXY IN THAT COMMERCIAL!

WELL, HE'S AMAZING EVERY DAY!

GOSH... SHIJU WAS AMAZING TODAY!

MIYOSHI

YOU SAY THAT EVERY TIME.

TENKA HAS BEEN REALLY POPULAR TOO.

SINCE IT MEANS I GET TO SEE THEM MORE!

PERSON-ALLY, I LIKE IT...

YEAH.

MAYBE NOT THE ENTIRE GROUP, BUT KIRA FOR SURE. HE'S JUST LIKE A PRINCE!

THE MORE MY WORK AS A CEO PILES UP.

JAM-PACKED

THE MORE EVENTS MIYOSHI DOES...

PHEW.

AH!

FWAP

I CAN AT LEAST CHECK MY EMAIL BEFORE THE OTHERS GET HERE...

CONFI-DENTIAL

THESE ARE THE PAPERS TAPIOCA PRINTED FOR ME...

HMM?

FLIP

20XX DRAMA:

ACTING OFFER FOR MIYOSHI

THIS IS...

GOOD MORNING!

KER-CHAK

JOLT

I HID IT WITHOUT THINKING.

YOICHI, YOU'RE HERE EARLY.

Y-YEAH...

HEY, I'M NOT A BUM!

I DON'T THINK HE SAID YOU WERE.

UNLIKE *SOMEONE*, I'M REALLY BUSY.

RECENTLY I'VE BEEN FOCUSING TOO MUCH ON OUR GROUP EVENTS.

OH? ARE YOU FINALLY GOING TO START ACTING LIKE A CEO AGAIN?

OH?

BUT YOICHI, YOU REALLY HAVE SO MUCH ON YOUR PLATE.

I'M AMAZED YOU CAN DO BOTH JOBS.

IT JUST GOES TO SHOW HOW TALENTED HE IS.

BUT YOU SAID YOU'RE SO BUSY YOU HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO SEE THE TV SHOWS WE APPEARED ON, RIGHT?

NAKA-MORI'S ENKA IS REALLY–

ABOUT THAT...

OH, THAT ONE! I THINK THIS YEAR IT'S SAYOKO NAKAMORI AND TENKA.

I LOOK FORWARD TO THE LIVE BROADCAST EVERY YEAR!

YEAH. SPEAKING OF WHICH, WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING SCHEDULED DURING THE AIRTIME FOR THAT ONE SHOW, RIGHT?

THAT MUSIC SHOW THAT SHOWS OFF TWO POPULAR GROUPS EACH YEAR!

WHICH ONE?

MIYOSHI RECEIVED A SUDDEN OFFER TO APPEAR AS A SURPRISE GUEST ON THAT SHOW.

I JUST SAW THE EMAIL.

WHAT?!

BAM

YEAH.

KIRA SEEMS REALLY UPSET.

APPARENTLY, MIYOSHI WILL BE APPEARING AS A SURPRISE GUEST ON TODAY'S SHOW.

WHY DO THEY HAVE TO APPEAR?!

KIRA (TENKA)

I REALLY LIKE HIM!

I'LL BE ABLE TO MEET YOICHI?!

REALLY?!

ROU (TENKA)

HEY, IF KIRA HEARS THAT, HE'LL YELL AT YOU AGAIN.

HE'S SO QUICK TO GET ANGRY!

IT'S KIND OF BORING...

DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU...

ZOU (TENKA)

WAH! I'M SORRY!

WHO'S SHORT-TEMPERED?

SO HE DOESN'T MIND BEING CALLED A PRINCE...

LOOM

NOBODY LIKES SHORT-TEMPERED PRINCES.

HUH?

WE CAN ALWAYS *COUNT ON* YOU, RIGHT?

てんか
FREEZE

YOU ALWAYS *CALMLY* SUPPORT US AS TENKA'S LEADER.

PLEASE CALM DOWN. THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU, KIRA.

I GUESS I'LL SAVE ROU.

I AM A PRINCE, AFTER ALL.

RELEASE

HMPH

...I GUESS.

KIRA, IT REALLY ISN'T LIKE YOU TO ACT OUT LIKE THIS.

HE'S SO SIMPLE-MINDED...

HE'D BE PRETTY CUTE IF HE WERE HONEST WITH HIMSELF.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, YOU TWO.

...

NOT REALLY.

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

OFFER FOR TENKA'S KIRA TO APPEAR AS THE PROTAGONIST IN NEW TV SERIES

DURING TODAY'S SHOW, WE'LL SHOW THEM THAT WE'RE THE REAL IDOLS.

...

THEY'RE JUST OLD MEN.

GOLDEN MUSIC HAS FINALLY BEGUN!

CHEER

CHEER

SQUEAL

CHEER

AS USUAL, WE'VE INVITED THE TWO MOST POPULAR VOICES IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY!

THE FIRST SONG WILL BE "I'LL GIVE YOU THE GREATEST LOVE ON EARTH" FROM THE HIGHLY POPULAR GROUP, TENKA!

☆

SQUEAL

CHEER

TENKA—

SQUEAL

SQUEAL

CHEER

TENKA—!

ARE YOU NERVOUS?

OF COURSE THEY ARE. THEY WERE CHOSEN AS ONE OF THE TWO TOP ARTISTS THIS YEAR.

TENKA REALLY IS POPULAR.

ON SUCH A MAJOR TV SHOW?

YES. WILL WE REALLY BE OKAY APPEARING AS SURPRISE GUESTS...

DON'T WORRY. WE JUST HAVE TO DO THINGS THE WAY WE ALWAYS DO.

MAKING THINGS ALL RIGHT IS OUR JOB AS IDOLS.

LISTEN TO ME.

BOTH OF YOU...

JUST TRUST IN ME.

YOU REALLY ARE AMAZING!

GREAT JOB, TENKA!

KIRA

ZOU!

YOU'RE SO CUTE!

ROU!

SQUEAL

CHEER

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THIS PROGRAM THAT WE'VE HAD THREE GUESTS!

AND NOW, I'M PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE... A SURPRISE GUEST!

PLEASE WELCOME... MIYOSHI!

CHEER

I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU. ♪

I'M STUCK, STUCK ON YOU...

LIKE A PUZZLE PIECE THAT FITS TRUE...

WHAT...?

CLENCH

YOU'VE ALL GIVEN GREAT PERFOR-MANCES.

GOOD WORK, EVERYONE.

THANK YOU.

THOSE OLD GUYS ARE SUPER ENERGETIC, HUH?

I DON'T THINK SO.

TIME FOR A COMMERCIAL BREAK!

HAVE YOU BEEN TO ONE OF OUR EVENTS BEFORE?

MISS NAKAMORI, I FEEL LIKE WE'VE MET BEFORE.

UH...

THAT MAKES ME SO HAPPY!

OH, YOU NOTICED ME?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

YOUR TALK SHOW THE OTHER DAY WAS WONDERFUL!

I TEND TO REMEMBER THE FACES OF THE PEOPLE WHO COME MORE THAN ONCE.

I TRY TO REMEMBER THE FACES OF EVERYONE WHO COMES TO SEE US.

...

IRK

OH, MY.

IT WAS A SURPRISE FOR US TOO...

AS A SURPRISE GUEST! ♡

I'M THE ONE WHO ASKED IF THEY COULD CALL YOU IN...

I SAID IT! ♡

WAH! ♡

TALK ABOUT AN ABUSE OF POWER...

MISS NAKAMORI IS SO INFLUENTIAL THAT WHATEVER SHE SAYS GOES IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY.

OF COURSE I WANTED TO SEE YOU PERFORM...

BUT MY BIGGEST REASON WAS BECAUSE I KNEW YOU WOULD SATISFY THE VIEWERS.

I'M GLAD I ASKED THEM TO INVITE YOU.

YOUR PERFOR-MANCE WAS EVEN BETTER THAN I IMAGINED.

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE OTHER TWO GROUPS' PERFORMANCES?

AFTER THE COMMERCIAL, WE'LL CHAT WITH OUR THREE GUESTS.

BUT THE LYRICS TO MIYOSHI'S "PUZZLE" REALLY TAKE ME BACK TO MY ADOLESCENCE.

THEY WERE BOTH MARVELOUS!

AH, THAT MAKES ME REALLY HAPPY!

I ESPECIALLY LIKE THE LINE THAT GOES...

"LOVE ISN'T A JOB OR A HOLE TO FALL IN."

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, MIROKU WROTE THEM FOR A RADIO SHOW, RIGHT?

THEY ARE GREAT LYRICS.

YES.

LIKE A PUZZLE PIECE... ♪

I'M STUCK, STUCK ON YOU... ♪

I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU. ♪

THAT FITS TRUE... ♪

IT TAKES TWO TO MAKE A PUZZLE. ♪

I WANT TO SLIDE INTO PLACE NEXT TO YOU... ♪

SMILE

FLUSH

SQUEAL

CLENCH

CHEER

TO THINK WE'D HEAR A DUET FROM MIROKU AND MISS NAKAMORI!

THE CROWD IS GOING CRAZY OVER THIS PERFECT COLLAB!

CHEEEEER

CHEER

FWAP

GIVE ME THAT!

TODAY, MIYOSHI IS—

TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOU OSSANS AS IDOLS!

I REFUSE...

HOW CAN I?!

HEY, KIRA, CALM DOWN!

IN MY FIRST EVER LEADING ROLE IN A TV SERIES!

ALSO, I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I HAVE TO SHARE THE SPOTLIGHT WITH YOU...

WHAT TV SERIES?

HUH?

MIROKU IS GOING TO APPEAR IN A TV SHOW WITH KIRA AS THE LEAD ACTOR?!

WHOOOOA

WHAT?! THAT'S SUCH A HUGE ANNOUNCE-MENT!

IT'S THE FIRST TIME ANYONE'S MENTIONED IT, RIGHT?

WAAAAH

AH...

SQUEAL

FOR REAL?! A TV SHOW?!

MII ♡ MIROKU LOVER ♡ @××△□×…

KIRA AND MIROKU! TOGETHER!

AKI @□□△△_OO△

I'M SO EXCITED!

WOW...

I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THIS, YOU KNOW!

UMMM...

BY THE WAY, ALL THREE OF US WERE CAST.

MR. LAVENDER MADE PLANS WITHOUT GIVING US A CHANCE TO SAY NO.

YEAH, BUT YOU'LL BE FINE.

(SHIJU)

WAIT, *ALL* OF US?!

PEOPLE ARE GOING CRAZY TALKING ABOUT THAT TV SERIES...

ON THE INTERNET.

HEY.

I'M GOING TO GET SOME FRESH AIR.

MY STOMACH HURTS...

YOU KNEW THE TV SHOW DEAL WAS CONFIDENTIAL, DIDN'T YOU?

THAT'S...

HELLO!

IT'S A GOOD THING WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ANYWAY! BUT WHY DID YOU HAVE TO SAY IT LIVE ON–?

WE'RE GARNERING A LOT OF ATTENTION ON SOCIAL MEDIA THANKS TO KIRA'S SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT.

YES!

OH, YOU'RE FROM MIYOSHI...

THANK YOU FOR EARLIER.

I THINK IT WAS A GREAT PR MOVE!

HUH?

...I WILL.

KIRA, NEXT TIME MAKE SURE YOU CHECK WITH ME FIRST.

WELL, I'LL SEE YOU LATER.

R-REALLY?

YES! WE'RE EVEN TRENDING WORLDWIDE!

HUH? I, UH... DON'T.

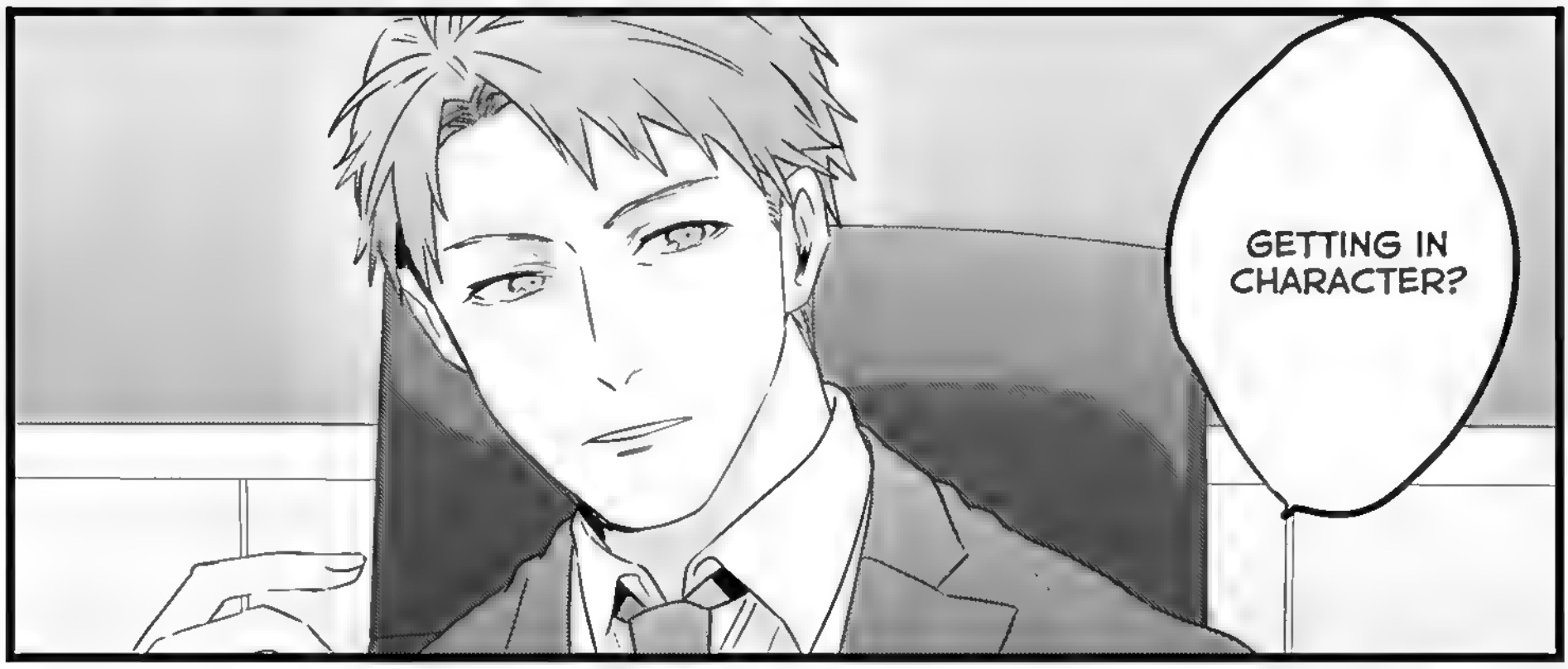
DON'T THINK I OWE YOU ANYTHING FOR THAT!

DOES HE HATE ME?

GLARE

WAIT!

Chapter 26


GETTING IN CHARACTER?

I'M NO PRO, BUT I'VE ACTED BEFORE.
WHEN I WAS A HOST, I HAD A CLIENT WHO RAN A THEATER AND I HELPED OUT THERE SOMETIMES.
THAT'S THE PART I'M MOST WORRIED ABOUT WHEN IT COMES TO ACTING IN THE TV SERIES.
YEAH.
I'M SURE YOU'LL BE FINE, MIROKU.
AREN'T YOU WORRIED, SHIJU?

I UNDER-STAND WHY YOU'RE WORRIED...

BUT DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE ALREADY PREPARED?

SHIJU, YOU HAVE ACTUAL EXPERIENCE?!

I THOUGHT WE WERE ALL BEGINNERS...

WHY DOES THAT UPSET YOU?!

I KNOW THAT YOU STAY UP LATE EVERY NIGHT READING YONEDA'S NOVEL.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING.

IT'S NOT.

BUT READING THE NOVEL IS THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL PART OF ACTING.

BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, RIGHT?

YOU HAVE AN ADVANTAGE IF YOU READ THE NOVEL AND GET TO KNOW THE CHARACTERS.

KNOWING THE SOURCE MATERIAL WELL DOESN'T MEAN I'LL BE ABLE TO ACT PROPERLY.

WHEN ALL YOU HAVE IS A SCRIPT TO GO OFF OF, YOU JUST MEMORIZE IT.

I'D ASSUME SO, SINCE WE'RE GOING TO BE IN A TV SHOW...

HUH?

ACT, HUH?

MIROKU, ARE YOU GOING TO ACT?

THAT'S WHAT MAKES ACTING FOR IT SO DIFFICULT.

THE SERIES IS HISTORICAL FICTION, BUT IT ALSO TAKES PLACE IN A SCHOOL.

YATAROU, THE CHARACTER YOU'LL BE PLAYING, IS A RETAINER FOR A SENGOKU WARRIOR WHO LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE TSUKASA, KIRA'S CHARACTER.

YATAROU COMMITTED SUICIDE TO FOLLOW AFTER HIS MASTER, WHO HAD FALLEN IN BATTLE. BUT FOR SOME REASON, HE FINDS HIMSELF IN THE PRESENT DAY.

HOW WILL YOU ALLOW THE YATAROU INSIDE OF YOU TO COME OUT? INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON ACTING, I THINK YOU SHOULD FOCUS ON EMBODYING HIM FIRST.

HE HAS PEOPLE HE WANTS TO PROTECT. HOW WOULD HE MOVE THROUGH YOU?

WE'LL BE PLAYING TEACHERS, SO WE'LL GET TO SEE YOUR CHARACTER OFTEN, SINCE HE'S A STUDENT.

THAT'S RIGHT...

I'M PLAYING A TEENAGER...

AME

I CAN'T HELP THE TRUTH!

SHIJU...

I'LL BE PLAYING TSUKASA MIDOU, THE MAIN CHARACTER.

I'M KIRA.

SINCE I'M THE SAME AGE AS THE PROTAGONIST, I'M SURE I'LL BE ABLE TO CAPTURE HIS YOUTH PERFECTLY! PLEASE COUNT ON ME!

SO YOUTH-FUL AND REFRESHING!

HE'S EVEN COOLER IN PERSON.

HE'S SUPER CONFIDENT. NO WONDER HE'S THE "PRINCE" OF THE IDOL WORLD.

I EXPECTED NOTHING LESS OF TENKA'S KIRA! ♡

HEY.

FLINCH

Lh..

THIS ISN'T A PRESCHOOL. YOU'RE NOT HERE TO PLAY.

GLARE

THE SAME GOES FOR YOU...

KIRA.

BUT IT TAKES MORE THAN ONE MAIN CHARACTER TO MAKE A SHOW.

I DON'T KNOW HOW CONFIDENT YOU ARE IN YOUR ACTING...

NEXT!

WHO'S PLAYING YATAROU?

!

THAT'S ME!

I'M MIROKU OSAKI, AND I'LL BE PLAYING YATAROU, THE RETAINER OF A WARRIOR FROM THE SENGOKU ERA...

WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE THE MAIN CHARACTER, TSUKASA!

INSTEAD OF TALKING THE TALK, WALK THE WALK AND USE YOUR ACTING TO SUPPORT THE OTHER CAST MEMBERS.

...

I AM YATAROU, FAITHFUL RETAINER OF THE MIDOU FAMILY.

I HAVE TO GET INTO CHARACTER...

I MADE HASTE TO JOIN YOU.

MY ONLY WISH IS TO PROTECT YOU, MY LORD.

WHA–!

MY LORD, THOUGH THIS MAY BE A NEW WORLD, I'M EXTREMELY PLEASED TO BE BY YOUR SIDE ONCE MORE.

UNBELIEVABLE! THE SCRIPT WAS JUST PASSED OUT TODAY, AND YOU'RE ALREADY PUTTING YOUR OWN SPIN ON IT.

DON'T STAND OUT MORE THAN THE MAIN CHARACTER!

IT WAS ALSO IN THE SCRIPT, WASN'T IT?

MY CHARACTER'S FIRST LINE...

IT WAS A LINE FROM THE NOVEL...

THAT WASN'T FROM THE SCRIPT.

HEY, KIRA!

OH... SORRY ABOUT THAT.

IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN A YEAR SINCE YOU DEBUTED, RIGHT? STOP ACTING SO FAMILIAR WITH ME!

KIRA!

YEAH! AND A FORMER IDOL FROM SHINEEZ IS IN HIS GROUP, SO-

SHUT UP!

HE'S OLDER THAN YOU, SO...

I DON'T CARE ABOUT A GUY WHO QUIT HIS AGENCY!

WH-
WHAT?

GLINT

I'M SORRY ABOUT HIM.

PLEASE EXCUSE US.

LET'S GO.

GRAB

...

BOW

...

YOICHI!

YOU OKAY?

WELL, SORT OF...

IT LOOKED LIKE YOU TWO WERE HAVING A DISAGREEMENT.

NO, THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY!

HE'S LIKE A LITTLE BROTHER GOING THROUGH HIS REBELLIOUS PHASE. I THINK IT'S CUTE!

I HAVE A LITTLE SISTER BUT NOT A LITTLE BROTHER, SO IT'S NICE!

IF THINGS GET TOO ROUGH, I CAN SAY SOMETHING....

HE'S GOTTEN SO STRONG...

HE'S DEFINITELY A "PRINCE"!

KIRA!

KIRA, EVERYONE'S COUNTING ON YOU.

IS TENKA!

THE HOTTEST IDOL GROUP RIGHT NOW...

THE BEST.

I HAVE TO BE...

OH, IT'S YOU...

MY LORD!

MY LORD... I MEAN, TSUKASA. PLEASE ALLOW ME TO STAY BY YOUR SIDE!

PLEASE WAIT, MY LORD!

I KEEP TELLING YOU, I'M NOT!

WHY ME?

BECAUSE YOU ARE MY MASTER...

WHY DO YOU KEEP CALLING ME YOUR LORD?

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU, ANYWAY?

WHAT'S WITH THAT HALF-ASSED ACTING? ARE YOU MESSING AROUND?

CUT!

SAY YOUR LINES AGAIN.

START FROM "I KEEP TELLING YOU..."

WHAT IS TSUKASA FEELING WHEN HE SAYS THAT?

HUH?

I KEEP TELLING YOU, I'M NOT!

...

I THINK HE'S BOTHERED BECAUSE YATAROU IS SO PERSISTENT.

SHIVER

THEN ACT LIKE IT.

RUMBLE

KIRA, UM...

YOU CAN DO IT, KIRA!

KIRA, DON'T STRESS!

ALSO, ARE THOSE THE ONLY THINGS YOU CAN SAY TO CHEER PEOPLE UP?!

SNAP

YOU'RE SO ANNOYING! SHUT UP, OSSAN!

...

...SHUT UP.

I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP.

TSUKASA!

A HA HA! I THINK THAT'S THE PERFECT AMOUNT OF ENERGY FOR THIS SCENE...

WE CAN JUST GET RID OF BOTH OF THEM IF THEY AREN'T.

DO YOU REALLY THINK THOSE TWO WILL BE ALL RIGHT?

DIREC-TOR...

I'M THE DIRECTOR. I DON'T WANT TO MAKE ANYTHING HALF-ASSED.

B-BOTH OF THEM?!

I'LL MAKE THEM ACT LIKE THEIR LIVES DEPEND ON IT.

KIRA!

HMM?

OH, IT'S YOU, OSSAN.

DON'T INTERRUPT ME ON MY BREAK. SHOO!

OKAY! BUT ACTUALLY, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU.

LISTEN TO ME!

I'M BUSY. GO AWAY.

DON'T BE LIKE THAT!

WE'RE FRIENDS, AREN'T WE?

FRIENDS?!

FLUSH

DO YOU NOT WANT TO BE?

YOU'RE SO ANNOY-ING!

DEPRESSED

OH...

THIS GUY...!

IGNORE IGNORE IGNORE IGNORE IGNORE IGNORE IGNORE

KIRA?

SCRIPT

...

SHINE

HE'S USING HIS GOOD LOOKS AGAINST ME!

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

HURRY UP AND SAY IT.

HUH?

MUMBLE

I'VE BEEN ACTING LONGER THAN YOU, SO I'LL TEACH YOU!

I HATE THIS GUY.

REALLY? THAT'D BE A HUGE HELP!

I SAW YOU EARLIER...

I'M ROU, FROM TENKA.

UM...

YOICHI!

THAT'S NOTHING YOU NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT A GUY WHO QUIT HIS AGENCY!

AH...

I'M SORRY FOR WHAT KIRA SAID EARLIER.

ANYWAY, IT OCCURRED TO ME EARLIER...

THAT YOU SEEM QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE WAY YOU ACT ON TV.

THAT'S...

I STILL REALLY ADMIRE YOU, YOICHI. YOU HAVE SO MUCH EXPERIENCE AS AN IDOL...

HA HA... THAT'S ALL LONG IN THE PAST.

IN ORDER TO REACH THAT LEVEL, EACH OF US HAS TO ACT LIKE THE CHARACTERS THE AGENCY CREATED FOR US.

SHINEEZ CREATED TENKA TO BE A GROUP THAT IS SUPREME TO ALL OTHERS.

HA HA... THANK YOU.

YOUNG IDOLS SURE HAVE IT ROUGH.

I SEE.

HE'S TRYING TO BE SOMEONE WHO CAN LEAD US FORWARD.

KIRA IS FORCING HIMSELF TO BECOME THE ULTIMATE "PRINCE" OF THE IDOL WORLD.

SO PLEASE DON'T THINK POORLY OF HIM.

MIROKU AND I AREN'T ANGRY AT HIM.

ぽん
PAT

DON'T WORRY.

I QUIT SHINEEZ, SO I CAN'T ACT LIKE I'M YOUR SENIOR AT THE AGENCY.

BESIDES, KIRA WAS RIGHT.

AND, AS YOUR SENIOR IN LIFE, LET ME SAY THAT YOUR NATURAL SELF...

IS MUCH MORE CAPTIVATING THAN THAT ACT YOU PUT ON.

RIGHT NOW, WE'RE RIVALS.

THANK YOU!

...

I KNOW I SAID ALL THAT...

BUT WILL MIROKU REALLY BE OKAY?

Chapter.27

NURSE'S OFFICE

EXCUSE ME.

RATTLE

I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE, MR. OHTO.

THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE YOU ASK YOU ABOUT SOME STUDENTS.

OH? IF YOU WANT LOVE ADVICE, I'M MORE THAN HAPPY TO LISTEN.

MR. SUZUKI, YOU DON'T VISIT ME IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE VERY OFTEN.

FREEZE

TSUKASA AND YATAROU.

MR. OHTO?

HAVE YOU NOTICED ANYTHING ABOUT THEM RECENTLY...

CUT! OKAY.

GOOD WORK. HOW'S MY ACTING?

NOT BAD, I GUESS.

I DON'T THINK YOU MAKE A GOOD NURSE, THOUGH.

THIS IS YOUR FIRST EVER ROLE AS A TEACHER, SO YOU SHOULD HAVE FUN WITH IT.

OH, AND YOU MAKE A GOOD HOMEROOM TEACHER?

BY THE WAY, WHERE'S MIROKU TODAY?

I THINK SOMEONE MENTIONED...

THAT THEY'LL BE FILMING AT A TEMPLE THAT'S GETTING SET ON FIRE.

HE'S FILMING AT A DIFFERENT LOCATION.

WHY'S THAT?

?!

HUH...?

WILL HE BE OKAY?

BAM

BAM

BAM

WOW!

WHAT AN AMAZING SET!

THE DIRECTOR INSISTS THAT WE USE REAL FIRE ON SET.

PRECAUTIONS WILL BE TAKEN TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS SAFE.

WE HAVE TO GIVE IT OUR ALL!

BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT WE ONLY HAVE ONE SHOT AT FILMING!

DON'T MESS UP AND DRAG ME DOWN WITH YOU.

...

MY LORD...

MY LORD!

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY LORD?

WHAT SHALL WE DO NOW?

HOW HEART-REND-ING...

SILENCE!

THIS IS THE END OF THE SANADA CLAN.

THEY'VE ALREADY COME THIS FAR.

OUR ENEMIES ARE AT OUR GATES.

YOU ALL SHOULD ESCAPE WITH YOUR LIVES.

...

UM, SIR, THE FLAMES ARE SPREADING A LITTLE TOO QUICKLY...

YATA-ROU...?

I AM HERE, MY LORD.

PLEASE REST AT EASE.

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

I WILL FOLLOW YOU TO THE GRAVE.

CRACKLE

WOBBLE
!

H-HEY, DIRECTOR—

SHUT UP! JUST BE QUIET AND WATCH!

MY LORD...

ARE YOU UNHARMED?

WOBBLE
FWUMP

YATAROU!

Chapter 28

YOU'RE FREE TO GO.
PRESS
HERE.
THANK YOU.
WHEN THEY CARRIED YOU IN. I THOUGHT THERE'D BEEN A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT.
I WAS SO SURPRISED...
TO BE HONEST, I WAS SURPRISED TOO.
THEY MADE ME COME GET IT LOOKED AT.
I THOUGHT YOU'D LAUGH BECAUSE IT WASN'T SERIOUS AT ALL...
IT WAS DEFINITELY NO LAUGHING MATTER!

KIRA LOOKED LIKE HE WAS READY TO CRY AS HE DRAGGED YOU OUT OF THE SET.

I THOUGHT MY HEART WOULD STOP.

YES! THANK YOU AGAIN.

WELL, AT LEAST THE BEAM ONLY GRAZED YOU.

YOU SEEM TOTALLY FINE.

OH...

YOU SAVED ME.

THANKS FOR EARLIER.

THE BEAM HIT ME WHEN I TRIED TO AVOID IT...

AND BROKE THE BAG OF FAKE BLOOD ON MY CHEST.

WELL, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

KIRA!

...

I'M GLAD YOU WEREN'T HURT, KIRA.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASIER FOR YOU TO AVOID IT BY YOURSELF.

ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS MOVE FROM WHERE YOU WERE SITTING.

YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT.

HUH?

AND I COULDN'T SIT BACK AND LET A YOUNG IDOL LIKE YOU GET INJURED—

WHAT ABOUT YOU?!

WELL, IT WASN'T A BIG DEAL IN THE END...

YEAH, I AM.

YOU'RE AN IDOL TOO...

"I WOULD GIVE MY LIFE TO PROTECT YOU, MY LORD."

BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS WHAT YATAROU WOULD DO.

HUH?

DOESN'T THAT SOUND LIKE THE SORT OF THING HE'D SAY?

YOU REALLY ARE...

AN IDIOT.

BECAUSE YOU SEEMED TO NOTICE THAT MY HAIR AND NAILS WEREN'T GROWING ANY LONGER."

"BUT THAT'S..."

TSUKASA SITS ON THE PARK'S BENCH. ON HIS KNEE IS NOT SURE IF IT IS THE MEDICINE'S EFFECTS, BUT HE SEEMS ALM.

ARE YOU GOING TO DIE, EVEN OUGH YOU SAID YOU'D STAY BY

With emotion!

RRY, YATAROU...

Try and lower your voice

MALL CHILD,

Looki down

YATAROU AND TSUKASA'S LAST SCENE TOGETHER...

WITH THE RETAINE
LEFT THE REST TO
" ...UNDERSTOOD.
"LET'S... MEET AG
THE NEXT WORLD
HIS CONNECTIO
THE MIDOU FA
RETAINER WAS
YATAROU WAS

DOESN'T THAT SOUND LIKE THE SORT OF THING HE'D SAY?

TSUKASA WOULD...

IN THAT CASE...

YATAROU!

HEY, YATAROU!

YATAROU! WHAT'S WRONG?!

YOU'RE...

D-DON'T TELL ME...

MASTER.

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY...

DON'T BE STUPID!

I DIDN'T WISH FOR YOU TO SEE SOME-THING SO UNSIGHTLY...

I NEED TO CALL AN AMBULA-

THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT.

NO.

MY TIME HAS COME.

SO I NEED TO DO THIS RIGHT.

THESE ARE MY LAST MOMENTS...

DON'T SAY THAT!

N-NO...

BECAUSE I HAD YOU WITH ME.

LORD TSUKASA, I WAS NOT AFRAID TO LIVE IN THIS NEW WORLD...

EVEN THOUGH THE TIMES HAVE CHANGED, YOU ARE AND HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE GREATEST MASTER I HAVE EVER KNOWN.

MEET AGAIN IN THE NEXT WORLD.

LET'S...

GLOW

CUT!

NOD

THAT WAS YOUR BEST ACTING YET.

CHEER

THAT'S A WRAP!

I ACTUALLY CRIED!

THAT SCENE WAS GREAT!

THAT WAS SOME AMAZING ACTING.

GOOD WORK.

OSSAN...

KIRA...

HA HA...

KIRA...

YOU TWO ARE RIVALS.

I TOLD YOU NOT TO GET ANY CLOSER TO HIM THAN NECESSARY.

S-SIR...

OKAY...

ROU AND ZOU ARE WAITING IN THE CAR.

COME WITH ME. WE'RE HEADING TO A MEETING FOR YOUR NEXT JOB.

YOUR NAME IS MIROKU, RIGHT?

OH, RIGHT.

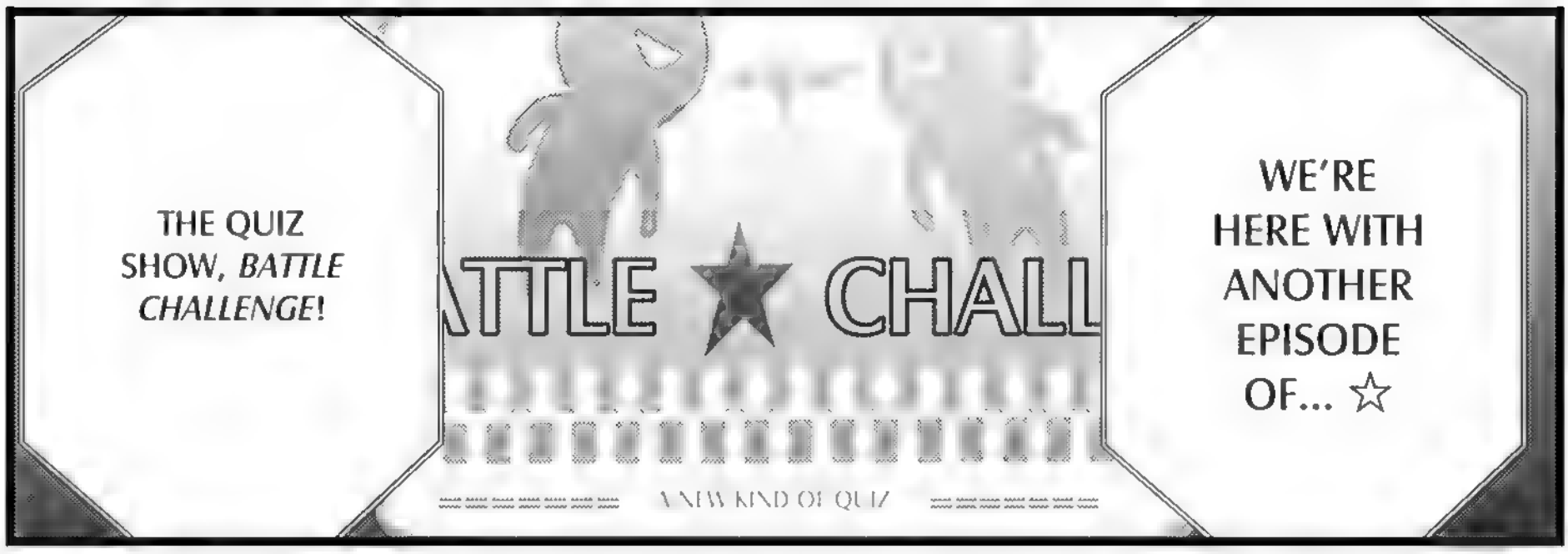
PLEASE CONTINUE TO CHEER TENKA ON...

AS A "SUPPORTING" CHARACTER.

...

WELL, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE US...

Chapter 29


THE QUIZ SHOW, *BATTLE CHALLENGE*!
ATTLE ★ CHALL
A NEW KIND OF QUIZ
WE'RE HERE WITH ANOTHER EPISODE OF... ☆

TODAY I, MUTOU, WILL BE JOINED BY...
EVERYONE'S FAVORITE IDOL, MOMOKA.
NOW LET'S INTRODUCE THE TWO GROUPS THAT'LL BE BATTLING IT OUT TONIGHT!
WAFT
WAFT

TONIGHT,
IT'LL BE...

TENKA VS.
MIYOSHI!

THAT *BATTLE CHALLENGE* IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE TV SERIES.

☆

WE'LL BE APPEAR-ING ON...

YEAH, THAT'S THE ONE.

YOU MEAN THE SHOW THAT'S RUMORED TO BE HORRIBLE TO FILM BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO USE A LOT OF STAMINA EVEN THOUGH IT'S A QUIZ SHOW?!

☆

IT ALWAYS PITS TEAMS AGAINST EACH OTHER, RIGHT?

☆

DON'T TELL ME...

THAT'S RIGHT.

WE'LL BE UP AGAINST TENKA.

THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN WIN.

THERE'S MORE THAN A TWENTY YEAR AGE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS!

YEAH.

TEENAGER

TEENAGER

TEENAGER

DON'T YOU THINK IT WAS BOLD OF THEM TO ASK THIS OF US?

40 YEARS OLD

36 YEARS OLD

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GAIN BONUS POINTS DURING THE FINAL STAGE, SO DO YOUR BEST!

IF YOU MANAGE TO COLLECT THE BALLS AS YOU GO THROUGH EACH GAME...

THE BATTLE CHALLENGE CONSISTS OF THREE GAMES.

HUH?

ME?

ZOU, YOU GO FIRST.

!

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SHOW OFF AS THE GROUP'S INTELLECTUAL GUY!

THE FIRST GAME SHOULD BE A QUIZ.

I WON'T LET YOU DOWN!

OKAY! LEAVE IT TO ME!

...

THE FIRST GAME IS "TWISTY SHOOTER"! I'LL READ OUT QUESTIONS FROM A MIDDLE SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM.

OUR CONTESTANTS ARE...

AND SHIJU FROM MIYOSHI!

ZOU FROM TENKA...

THIS IS THE PERFECT WAY TO GAIN AN ADVANTAGE FOR YOUR TEAMMATES AND FOR THE FINAL STAGE!

THE CONTESTANT WHO ANSWERS THE MOST QUESTIONS CORRECTLY WILL RECEIVE A BALL!

DING LO

NOW, FOR THE FIRST QUESTION...

WHAT DO YOU CALL THE PHENOMENON EXPERIENCED IN NORTHERN COUNTRIES WHERE THE SUN DOESN'T SET AND IT IS BRIGHT EVEN AT NIGHT?

HEH

BZZZ

THE CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS IS... NEW YORK CITY!

YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY GOOD AT VARIETY SHOWS!

ZOU, THAT WAS A FUNNY JOKE!

LET'S MOVE ON TO THE NEXT QUESTION.

THE MIDNIGHT SUN.

...

THAT'S CORRECT!

A PLACE IN DESERTS WHERE WATER CAN BE FOUND IS CALLED...

THE FOUNTAIN OF RESTO-RATION!

THE FREEDOM TO HAVE HOBBIES!

ALL HUMANS HAVE THREE "FREEDOMS." THE FREEDOM TO SPEAK YOUR MIND, THE FREEDOM TO DO WHAT YOU WANT WITH YOUR BODY, AND...?

THAT'S CORRECT!

AN OASIS.

...

5 : 0

HI—— ——h

GLOOMY

HOW DID I NOT GET A SINGLE ONE RIGHT?

GOOD JOB, ZOU.

BUT THE VP KNOWS WHAT ZOU IS LIKE, SO WHY DID HE...?

HEH HEH HEH...

JUST AS I EXPECTED.

THIS IS SO COMPLI-CATED.

OH...

THANK YOU...

W-WELL, YOU MAY HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED THE INTELLECTUAL CHARACTER, BUT IN REALITY YOU'RE NOT THAT GOOD AT STUDYING. DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP!

LET'S WIN POINTS IN THE OTHER GAMES!

THE NEXT STAGE WILL BE A LIFTING COMPETITION!

WHO WILL COME FORWARD IN THIS CHALLENGE THAT MAKES YOU USE YOUR ENTIRE BODY?

I'M GOOD AT LIFTING. OF COURSE.

I'LL GO NEXT.

ARE YOU SURE?

IT GOT SUPER HARD ALL OF A SUDDEN.

A CHALLENGE THAT USES YOUR BODY...

FOR THIS ROUND!

IT SEEMS OUR TEAMS HAVE DECIDED ON THEIR CHAMPIONS...

AND MIYOSHI'S YOICHI!

ROU FROM TENKA...

THE PERSON WHO CAN LIFT THE LONGEST WILL BE THE WINNER!

THE RULES ARE VERY SIMPLE.

WAS GOOD AT LIFTING.

OH, WELL, I NEVER KNEW THAT YOICHI...

BY WHAT?

I'M SURPRISED.

I GUESS IT'S ALL RELATED FOR HIM.

BUT HE'S A HUGE MUSCLEHEAD.

AH, HE NEVER TALKS ABOUT IT.

DOESN'T IT LOOK LIKE HE'S UNCOM-FORTABLE?

WAIT...

LIKE THIS.

UHHH...

DON'T TELL ME THAT HE MISUNDERSTOOD AND THOUGHT HE'D BE LIFTING WEIGHTS...

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HE THOUGHT!

WHEN YOU SAID LIFTING...

YOU MEANT... LIFTING A SOCCER BALL?

SHE'S RIGHT...

MOST IDOLS DON'T DO THAT!

I THOUGHT YOU MEANT POWERLIFTING.

Y

HUH? WHAT OTHER KIND OF LIFTING IS THERE?!

AN OLD GUY IN A SUIT LOOKING GLUM WHILE HOLDING A BALL IS JUST TOO UPSETTING!

GLOOMY

HEY, OSSAN! YOU LOOK SO DEPRESSED!

MY OLDER SISTER IS WATCHING THIS SHOW.

THIS IS BAD. WE NEED TO GET HIS ENERGY BACK!

YOICHI!

IN THAT CASE...

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN LOSE.

Chapter 30

CHEER
CHEER
FIVE POINTS FOR TENKA!
2
1
8
BAM
THE FINAL SCORE IS TWENTY VS. EIGHTEEN, WITH ROU TAKING THE LEAD!

SLUMP

SORRY, YOU TWO.

YEP! I'LL DO MY BEST!

THE NEXT ROUND IS A FACE-OFF BETWEEN THE LEADERS.

...

WE JUST HAVE TO WIN THE NEXT GAME.

EIGHTEEN POINTS IS PRETTY AMAZING!

NEXT UP IS KIRA'S TURN.

DON'T WORRY, I HAVE A PLAN.

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, THE GAME FOR THE NEXT ROUND WILL BE CHOSEN RANDOMLY.

SIR, I WON THIS ROUND, BUT WHAT SHOULD WE DO NEXT?

WAIT, DOES THAT MEAN–

I'VE MADE ARRANGE-MENTS FOR THE NEXT ROUND TO BE A QUIZ.

OKAY.

...

LISTEN.

JUST DO AS I SAY...

AND YOU'RE SURE TO WIN.

AND WHICH GROUP WILL CLAIM VICTORY?!

THE NEXT GAME WILL BE DECIDED RANDOMLY! WILL THE CONTESTANTS BE USING THEIR BODIES OR THEIR BRAINS?

THIS IS A BATTLE BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS!

THEIR FATED BATTLE WILL START AFTER THE COMMERCIALS!

IT'S TENKA'S KIRA VS. MIYOSHI'S MIROKU!

HUH? WHERE DID THE PRODUCER GO?

WE'LL PLAY A QUICK RECAP AFTER NINETY SECONDS OF COMMER-CIALS.

YOU PREPARED WHAT I ASKED OF YOU, RIGHT?

YES, OF COURSE!

SO...

AND IT'D BE BETTER FOR THE PROGRAM IF THEY WERE TO WIN...

TENKA IS THE ONLY GROUP FOR THIS GENERATION!

R-RIGHT!

HURRY UP AND HAND IT OVER.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR FLAT-TERY.

PASS?

HERE YOU GO.

HMPH.

FLIP

I TOLD THE STAFF THAT THE NEXT ROUND WILL BE A QUIZ.

IF YOU USE CUE CARDS TO GIVE THE MEMBERS OF TENKA THE ANSWERS, THEY'RE GUARANTEED TO WIN.

WE'D LOVE TO CONTINUE WORKING CLOSELY WITH SHINEEZ-

OH, I SEE.

GOOD WORK.

THANK YOU!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I'M TALKING ABOUT HOW YOU'RE CHEATING.

I'D LIKE YOU TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING.

!

SO THAT'S WHAT'S GOING ON.

IT'S RUDE TO LISTEN IN ON PEOPLE'S CONVER-SATIONS.

YOU'VE GOTTEN THE PRODUCER'S COOPERATION TO MANIPULATE THE LAST ROUND AND YOU'LL BE GIVING TENKA THE ANSWERS TO HELP THEM WIN.

IS THAT ABOUT IT?

GRAB

I WAS JUST GOING ALONG WITH HIS REQUEST! SO, UM–

P- PLEASE WAIT!

SHUT UP.

USELESS GARBAGE SHOULDN'T TALK WITHOUT PERMISSION.

EEP!

BUT SOON I'LL MAKE YOU LEARN...

I'M SORRY...

YOU HAD TO SEE THAT.

BUT I UNDER-STAND. I'LL GIVE UP... THIS TIME.

...THAT TENKA DESERVES TO BE AT THE TOP OF THE IDOL WORLD.

RATHER THAN YOU, THE MAN WHO ABANDONED SHINEEZ.

THE RECAP HAS ENDED! GOING LIVE IN...

THREE...

TWO...

IT IS...
"EXTERMINATE THE MOSQUITOS!"

EXTERMINATE THE MOSQUITOS!

BAM

THE NEXT ROUND WILL BE DETERMINED BY ROULETTE!

THE FIRST PERSON TO EXTERMINATE TWENTY MOSQUITOS WILL GET TEN POINTS!

WE'LL HAVE THE TWO OF YOU TARGET THE MOSQUITOS THAT APPEAR ON THESE FIVE PANELS.

WHO YOU CALL IN MAY MAKE OR BREAK YOUR CHANCES FOR VICTORY!

AFTER SIXTY SECONDS, YOU'LL ALSO BE ABLE TO CALL IN ONE OTHER TEAM MEMBER TO HELP YOU.

NOW...

LET'S BEGIN!

DASH

SLAP

FWAP

1 1

VS

1 0

BUT THOSE TWO ARE WELL MATCHED.

BOTH TEAMS HAVE RACKED UP POINTS!

HAVING TO RUN AROUND THE STUDIO SURE IS ROUGH.

THIS SHOW REALLY LIVES UP TO ITS REPUTATION.

HA HA...

SIXTY SECONDS HAVE PASSED!

PLEASE HELP ME...

COME ON!

ROU! YOICHI!

PAT

DON'T WORRY.

THE VP ISN'T GIVING ANY ORDERS...

1

LET'S JUST GO OUT THERE AND HAVE FUN.

WITH TEAM MIYOSHI WINNING THIS ROUND!

THE RESULTS ARE...

TWENTY POINTS VS. NINETEEN POINTS...

IN A LONG TIME.

BUT I HAVEN'T HAD THAT MUCH FUN...

YEAH.

AHHHH, WE LOST.

ROU...

YEAH, IT WAS PRETTY FUN.

MIYOSHI ...!

WHAM!!

OSSAN IDOL

Original Short Story

The Idols Play With a Fortune-Telling App

by Mochiko Mochida

Miroku had just finished a photoshoot as a model for a magazine and was stopping by the agency's office to let everyone know he was done. He could have just sent a message, but he was secretly hoping to see his beloved Fumi, the group's manager. However, he didn't let even a sliver of his ulterior motives show on his face—as expected of a pro!

"I'm back!"

"Welcome back, Miroku. Good work today."

"'Sup, Miroku?"

Yoichi and Shiju were the only ones in the office to greet him. Seeing the dejection on the youngest idol's face, Yoichi gave him a wry smile.

"Fumi will be back in a little bit."

"How could you care more about a woman than us? Where is your love for your fellow group members?!"

"That's not true! I love both of you too!"

Miroku bathed the two in the brightness of his largest and most charming smile, but Shiju only scolded him and said, "Save it for your fans!" It was an everyday scene for the three idols.

Then Shiju picked up a tablet and started to tap on its screen.

"What is that?"

"We're supposed to give our thoughts on this fortune-telling app."

"The tech team created it as a game app. It's going to be introduced in a magazine, so you should try it out too, Miroku."

"Wow, the tech team is working on so much stuff."

The fortune-telling app worked by asking the user a few questions, then giving a result based on the answers. Apparently, the paid version gave out even more detailed responses.

Miroku watched as Shiju gave the screen a few disinterested taps.

"The questions are so detailed…"

"You can just choose the answers randomly," suggested Shiju.

"Shiju, if you do that, you'll get a result that says your life is messy."

"I don't think I would… Would I?" The words The Fool popped up on the tablet in Shiju's hands. "Let's see, it says… 'As a proper adult, you should refrain from acting carelessly.' Boooo!"

Next, he read out the 'Advice' section of his result: "The card with advice to overcome your situation is The Empress and it says, 'Someone with deep affection and motherly instincts is

the key. Be sure not to let them slip through your grasp.' Heh, that sounds about right."

"...Shut up." Miroku's lips pursed as a certain person came to mind.

Next, it was Yoichi's turn to use the app.

"Wow, that's amazing!" exclaimed Shiju. "You got The Emperor card and it says, 'It may be said that you have gained personal and social success, but you're working too hard. It's better to rest!' Even a fortune-telling app is worried about your health. Seriously, ossan, take a break..."

When he checked the next part of Yoichi's result, Shiju laughed. "Ha ha ha... The advice card is The Wheel of Fortune. It says, 'You've already met your fated person. This is your last chance with them, so do your best!' I see... This app really is accurate."

Miroku's lips pursed once again as yet another person who fit that description came to mind.

After shaking off those thoughts, Miroku answered the questions and hung his head dejectedly when he got his own results.

"Let's see what you got... Heh heh, Miroku got The Hermit card, which says, 'You want to connect with someone, but for some reason your shut-in mindset keeps taking over!' Holy crap, just how hopeless are you?! Pfft!"

"Shut up! I can't help being a shut-in otaku at heart!"

"Now, now, Miroku… Let's look at your advice," continued Shiju. "The Sun card says, 'You'll surely meet a bright, carefree person similar to the sun, so do your best to go outside!' That's good, isn't it?"

"I guess…"

The corners of Miroku's mouth turned up into the tiniest smile as he thought of a certain someone. Of course, it was easy to guess who.

At that moment, the three were greeted with a bright "Hello!"

"Fumi! Welcome back!"

"Thank you, Miroku. Oh, how is that app?"

"Oh! Um… I guess it's pretty fun."

Fumi tilted her head at the three ossans' complex expressions.

"Mr. Tapioca said the app doesn't give out results that say bad things. Was he wrong? Mine was normal."

"Huh? You already played, Fumi?"

Miroku leaned forward, his eyes sparkling as he asked his question. Fumi immediately took a step back.

"Um, I got The Strength card, which said something like, 'You are strong-willed and quick to act.'"

"Huh. What did your advice card say?"

"If I remember right, it was The Chariot and it said, 'If you keep moving forward with your passionate, fast pace, you'll become

the strongest!' So I thought it best to continue focusing on giving my all to my work!"

Yoichi and Shiju trembled as they considered the mental image of a roaring lion and a chariot behind Fumi, smiling and posing proudly.

"W-well, don't work yourself too hard."

"Don't be silly, Yoichi! I have to put all my energy into it!"

"Ossan doesn't have enough time off as it is. His body's sending out emergency flags, saying he's overworked. Come on, Miroku, we have to do something!"

Shiju fearfully turned around looking for assistance, but Miroku was smiling bewitchingly and laying on the charm.

"Fumi is so cute…"

"This is no good!"

"Ha ha ha, Miroku thinks everything Fumi does is cute."

"Not everything! Probably… Right, Fumi? Fumi?!"

"Guh…"

Fumi was faced by an unexpected blast of Miroku's pheromones, caused by a seemingly harmless fortune-telling app.

"...Guh."

HE'S SO SIMPLE-MINDED...
HE'D BE PRETTY CUTE IF HE WERE HONEST WITH HIMSELF.

Original Excerpt
The 3 Members of TENKA (Part 2)

ROU'S MANLY SIDE WAS DISCOV-ERED...

A MANLY MAN

THIS IS A SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS EVENTS.

WAIT, REALLY? THAT'S SURPRISING!

UH...

IT'S NOT THAT I CAN'T WATCH THEM AT ALL, BUT I'M NOT A FAN.

HE DOESN'T SHOW THAT SIDE OF HIMSELF AT ALL.

I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE SO STRONG, ROU.

BY THE WAY, IS IT TRUE THAT YOU'RE AFRAID OF HORROR MOVIES, ZOU?

I WISH YOU'D PRAISE ME FOR BEING PROFES-SIONAL.

SOMETIMES I EVEN WAKE UP IN THE HALLWAY THE NEXT MORNING.

IT'S LIKE I FALL ASLEEP WITHOUT REALIZING IT WHENEVER I'M FACED BY GHOSTS OR SIMILAR STUFF.

SO BASICALLY... YOU PASS OUT?

HONESTLY, I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH.

OF HORROR MOVIES.

...YOU DON'T REMEMBER THEM?

OH, SO THAT'S WHY...

N-NO, I REALLY WAS SICK BACK THEN!

Zz

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, YOU DID SUDDENLY GET SICK RIGHT BEFORE WE HAD TO FILM *A TEST OF COURAGE.*

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK OF ME, KIRA?!

GHOSTS DON'T EXIST.

THINK RATIONALLY.

I SERIOUSLY THOUGHT YOU WERE SO UNFAZED BY HORROR THAT THE TV STATION ASKED YOU NOT TO BE INCLUDED.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THE *TEST OF COURAGE* SHOOT WAS HORRIBLE.

YOU TWO ARE SO RUDE!

THEY GAVE US A BAG OF PURIFYING SALT BEFORE-HAND, RIGHT?

PURIFYING

MINE MUST HAVE BEEN PAST THE EXPIRATION DATE, SINCE IT MADE ME SICK.

UH, SORRY.

SORRY...

A NEW SIDE OF ZOU WAS UNCOVERED!

HEH

THAT'S WHY I'M NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING.

IT WAS TRULY TERRIBLE...

HE ATE IT?!

IS THIS GUY A TOTAL AIRHEAD...?

OSSAN IDOL

BANG DREAM! GIRLS BAND PARTY! ROSELIA STAGE, VOLUME 1

Dr pepperco

IDOL

After her father's dreams of making it big in the music industry crumble beneath the strain of trying to appease both his managers and his fans, singer Yukina Minato is determined to make him proud by forming the "perfect band" of her own. But first, she'll have to find all the right members. They'll need unparalleled skill, passion and drive if they're going to succeed as a J-rock band in such a crowded scene! Future World Fes is the biggest music event of the year, a world-famous spectacular that showcases only the best of the best. Do five high school girls have what it takes to rock their competition and secure a spot on the main stage?

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BANG DREAM! GIRLS BAND PARTY! ROSELIA STAGE, VOLUME 2

Dr pepperco

IDOL

What are the bonds that form a real band? As the contest to perform at Future World Fes draws near, pressure mounts from all sides for the members of Roselia — the rigorous practice they need to do every day to stay sharp, family tensions running high, and on top of everything else, a shocking development for Yukina.

When a professional record label approaches her to sign a solo deal, Yukina finds herself facing an impossibly heavy choice. Should she take the shortest path to achieving her dreams, even if it means leaving her band members in the dust? Or should she risk it all, staking her future on the ragtag group of amateur musicians she might actually be willing to call her friends?

TOKYOPOP

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I WAS REINCARNATED AS THE VILLAINESS IN AN OTOME GAME BUT THE BOYS LOVE ME ANYWAY!, VOLUME 1

Ataka, Sou Inaida & Hachipisu Wan

LOVE-x-LOVE

Fated to die as the villainess of an otome game, Mystia sets out to change her own unhappy ending! Mystia Aren is the daughter of a noble family, and she just started high school. She's surrounded by a group of adoring classmates and her charming fiancé. Everything seems perfect. Except that this world is actually a dating sim called Kyun-Love, and Mystia knows she's been reincarnated into the role of the main character's evil rival! Mystia is determined to do everything she can to avoid her fate, but it's not as easy as it sounds. Especially when all the boys keep falling in love with her!

TOKYOPOP

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NO VAMPIRE, NO HAPPY ENDING, VOLUME 1

Shinya Shinya

♀LOVE-ス-LOVE♂

Arika is what you could charitably call a vampire "enthusiast." When she stumbles across the beautiful and mysterious vampire Divo however, her excitement quickly turns to disappointment as she discovers he's not exactly like the seductive, manipulative villains in her stories. His looks win first place, but his head's a space case. Armed with her extensive knowledge of vampire lore, Arika downgrades Divo to a beta vampire and begins their long, long... long journey to educate him in the ways of the undead.

© Shinya Shinya / MAG Garden

LAUGHING UNDER THE CLOUDS, VOLUME 1

KarakaraKemuri

FANTASY

Under the curse of Orochi, the great demon serpent reborn every 300 years, Japan has been shrouded in clouds for as long as anyone can remember... The era of the samurai is at an end, and carrying swords has been outlawed. To combat the rising crime rates, an inescapable prison was built in the middle of Lake Biwa. When brothers Tenka, Soramaru and Chutaro Kumo are hired to capture and transport offenders to their final lodgings in this prison, they unexpectedly find themselves faced with a greater destiny than any of them could have imagined.

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LAUGHING UNDER THE CLOUDS, VOLUME 2

KarakaraKemuri

FANTASY

TOKYOPOP

In the early Meiji era, against civil unrest and the end of the samurai way of life, Japan's crime rate skyrocketed. As prisons overflow, the government has no choice but to build a new, inescapable prison. This prison is Gokumonjo, located in the center of Lake Biwa, which means it relies on the three sons of the Kumo family to transport criminals to it. But is Gokumonjo truly just a prison for petty criminals? A dreaded murderer intrudes on the Kumo family's peace and brings with him news of an ancient calamity: Orochi. As Soramaru realizes his elder brother Tenka has been hiding things from him, he begins to look to outside sources to help him become stronger. At the same time, still other outside forces begin to reach out to Tenka for his knowledge of this ancient evil. The race to find and control Orochi's vessel begins!

© KarakaraKemuri 2011 / MAG Garden Corporation

BL FANS LOVE MY BROTHER?!

Mimu Oyamada

COMEDY

Kirika Amano is just an unassuming college freshman, but her shut-in big brother, Teruo, is about to turn her life upside down... Even though he's barely left their family home in four years, Teruo has a big secret: he's been living a double life online as the boys love artist sensation Amaterasu! With his popularity online growing more and more, Teruo begs Kirika to pose as Amaterasu in the real world, throwing her right into the deep end of doujinshi conventions, hot and sweaty fan comics, and adoring fans who want to worship Teruo—and now Kirika—as a god! As Kirika begins to crack under the pressure, she relies on Teruo's knowledge to guide her through this new world of conventions, followers, and her own budding love for her big brother's OTP, just as Teruo needs his little sister to help him come out of his shell and explore the real world. And as each new event pushes them further into the limelight, can they find a way to keep the secret of Amaterasu's identity and also have room to be themselves?

© Mimu Oyamada 2020

DRAMACON

Svetlana Chmakova

CLASSICS

Relive Christie's three-year adventure at the Yatta Anime Convention with this 15th-anniversary edition of Svetlana Chmakova's debut series: Dramacon. This special edition includes all three volumes in one gorgeous book!

When amateur writer Christie settles in the artist alley of her first-ever anime convention, she sees it as an opportunity to promote the manga she had started with her artist boyfriend. But when she unexpectedly falls for a mysterious cosplayer, things become complicated. What do you do when you love someone who is going miles away from you in just a couple of days?!

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THE TREASURE OF THE KING AND THE CAT

You Kajika

LOVE-x-LOVE

One day, a large number of people suddenly disappeared in the royal capital. When young King Castio goes out to investigate this occurrence, he comes across the culprit... but the criminal puts a spell on him! To help him out, the king calls the wizard O'Feuille to his castle, along with Prince Volks and his loyal retainer Nios. Together, they're determined to solve this strange, fluffy mystery full of cats, swords and magic!

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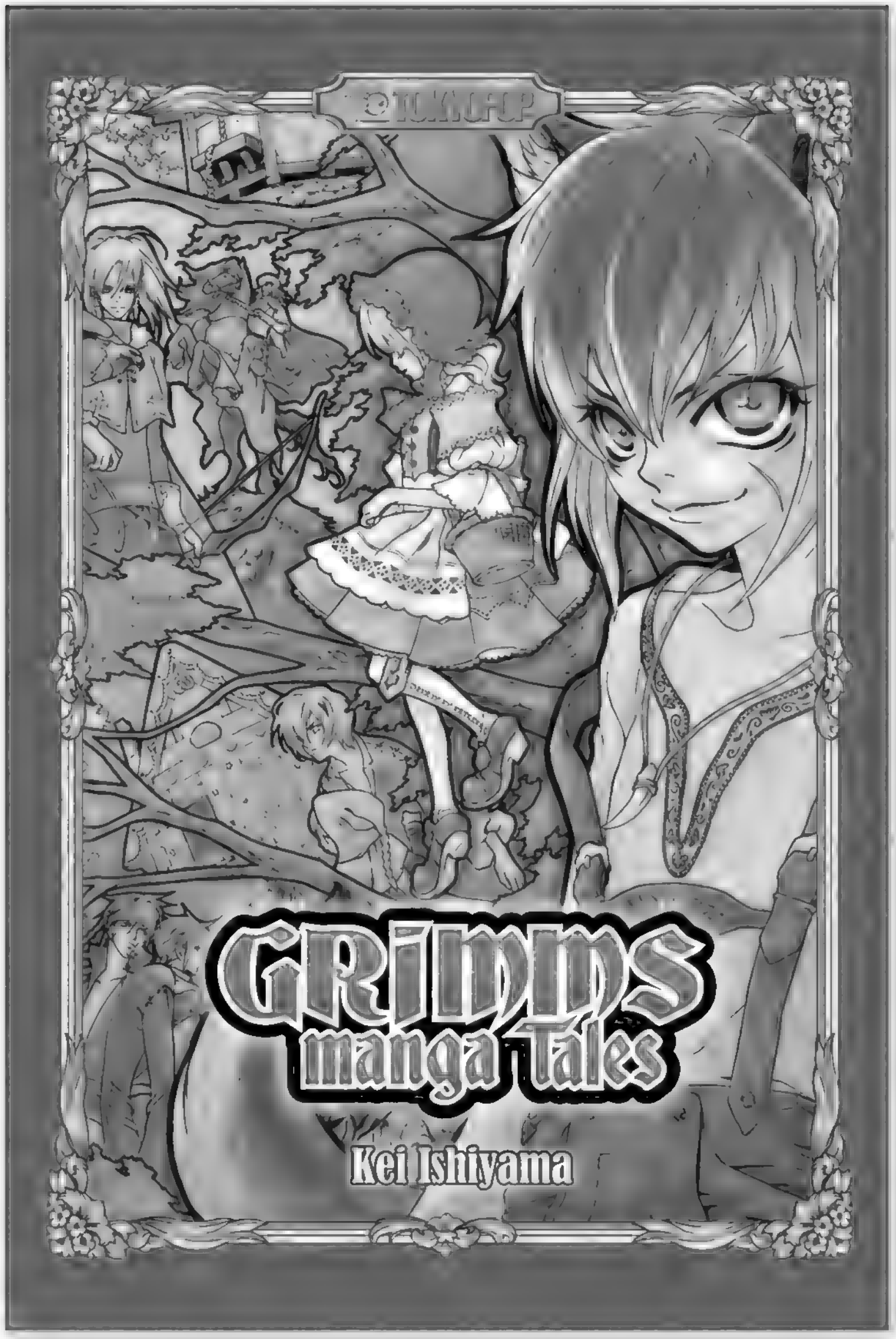
GRIMMS MANGA TALES

Ishiyama, Kei



FANTASY

In this classic manga version of the Brothers Grimm fairy tales, Kei Ishiyama puts her own creative spin on these beloved stories. Featuring Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, Hansel and Gretel, The Two Brothers, The Twelve Hunters, Snow White, The Frog King, Puss in Boots, and The Singing Springing Larck, this fantasy manga retells these timeless tales... but with a twist of originality!

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KONOHANA KITAN, VOLUME 3

Sakuya Amano

FANTASY

It's wintertime at Konohanatei, which means all the foxes at the inn are getting ready to celebrate the New Year holiday together! But when Yuzu accidentally gets separated from Satsuki and her other friends on the way to the shrine, she finds herself somewhere completely different... and surrounded by strange foxes! Are these the foxes who take care of New Year's wishes? Making new friends is great, but there has to be a way back home... right?

© AMANO SAKUYA, GENTOSHA COMICS.

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KONOHANA KITAN, VOLUME 4

Sakuya Amano

FANTASY

Every day, the foxes who staff Konohanatei work hard to make sure each of their guests is taken care of, but the healing power of the legendary inn that sits between worlds affects not only its guests but its workers as well! Take a stroll down memory lane with Kiri, who has been working there as an attendant since she was young, and who currently acts as a supervisor and mentor to Yuzu, Satsuki, Natsume, Ren, and Sakura. A glimpse of Kiri's past reveals what her first days at Konohanatei were like, and how working at the inn changed her destiny—and brought her together with one very special person.

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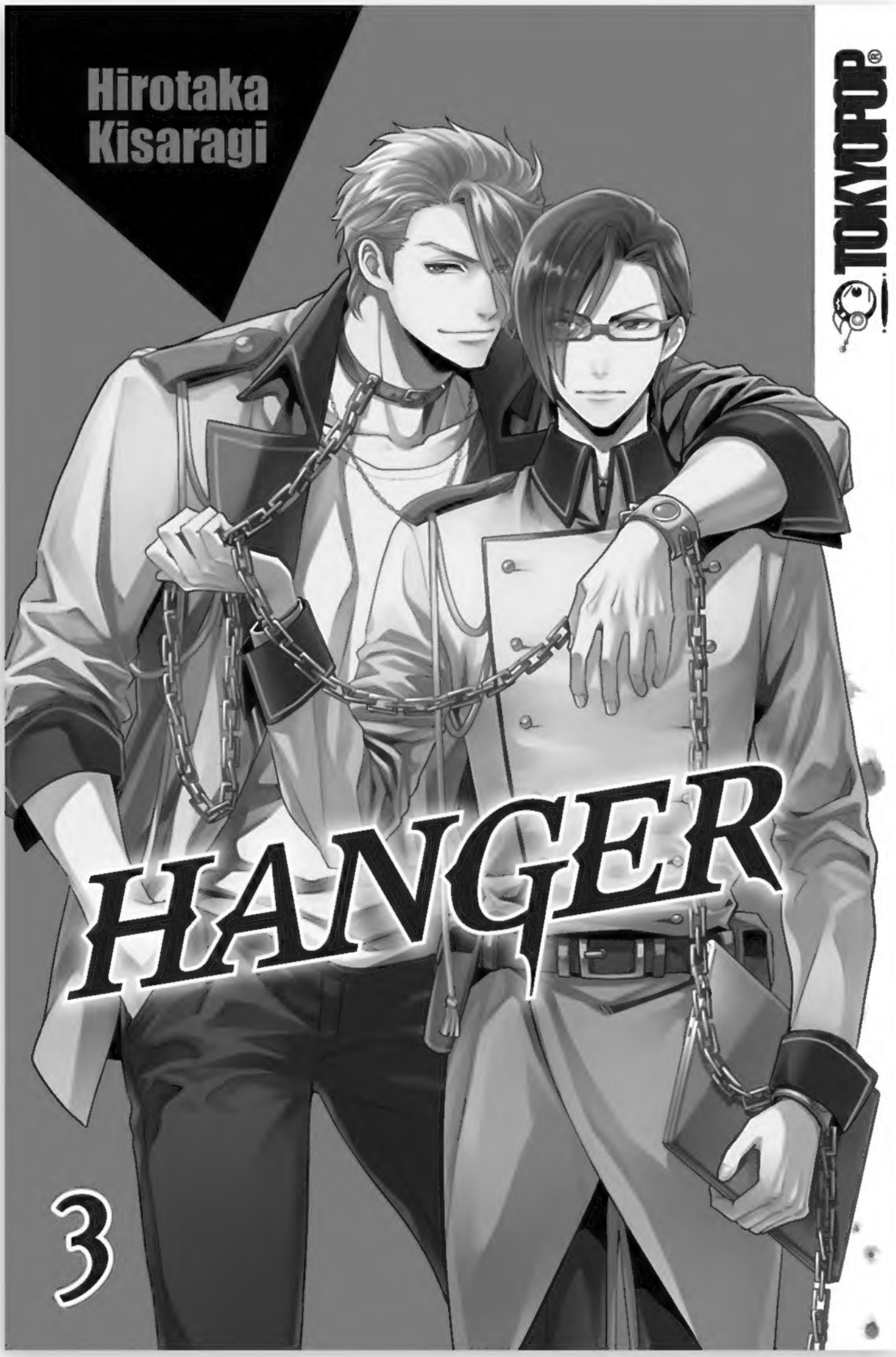
HANGER, VOLUME 3

Hirotaka Kisaragi



LOVE-x-LOVE

In a futuristic Neo-Tokyo, crime is rising rapidly in the wake of a new generation of super-drugs capable of enhancing the user's physical and mental abilities. Hajime Tsukomo is a new recruit on a federal task force trained to go after these powered-up criminals. Now he must team up with Zeroichi, a so-called Hanger looking to reduce his own jail sentence in exchange for helping to take down these chemically-boosted bad guys. With Neo-Tokyo's most wanted criminal organization — Nine-Tails — on the loose and active once again, everyone in the Security Service is on high alert. The Hanger program has always been met with some distrust from other law enforcement teams, but as tensions rise in the wake of Nine-Tails' destructive terrorism, Squad 4's Hangers and Keepers will have to work harder than ever to maintain the trust between them... and each other.

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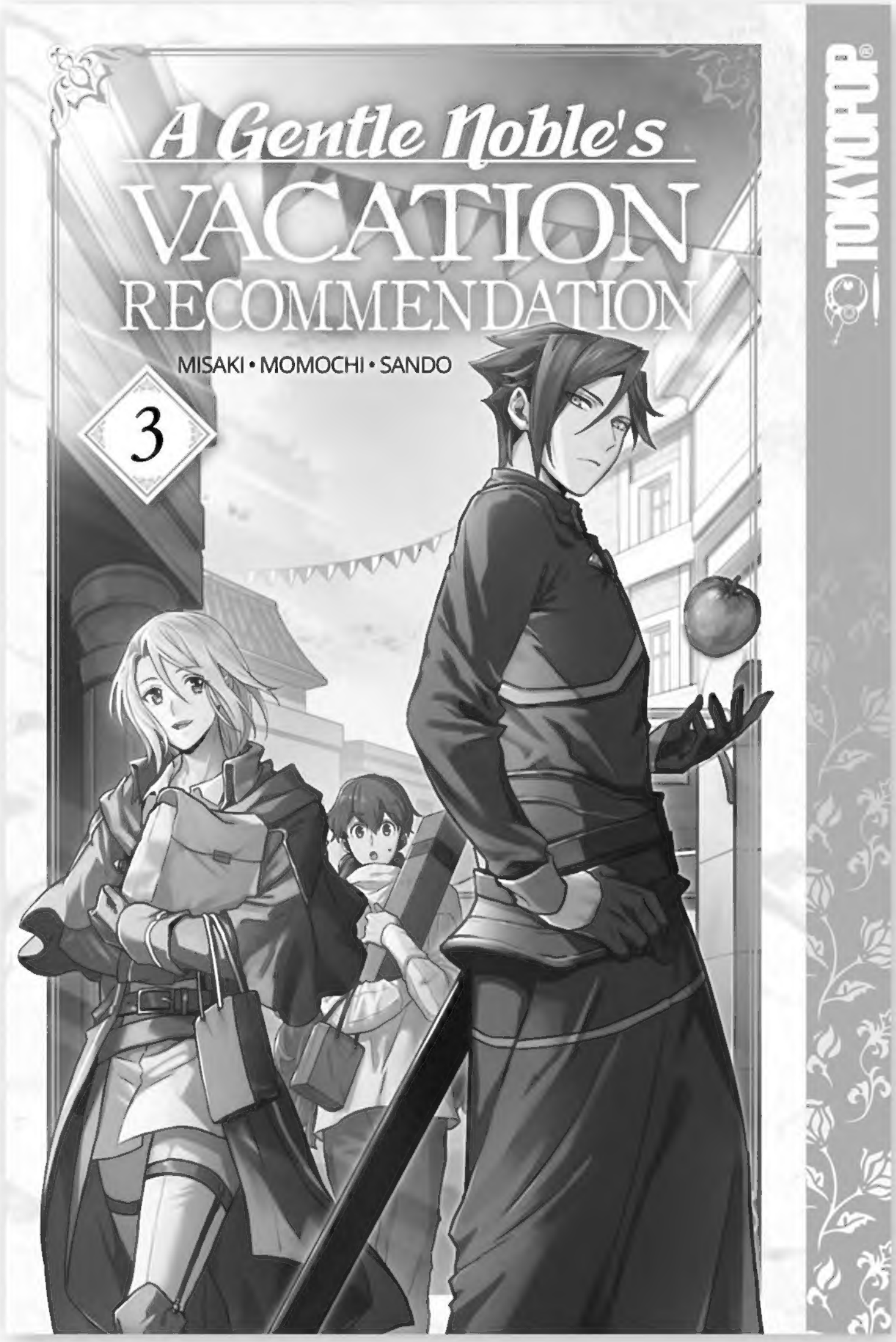
A GENTLE NOBLE'S VACATION RECOMMENDATION, VOLUME 3

Misaki, Momochi & Sando



ISEKAI

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After defeating the underground dragon and finishing up their business in the mercantile city of Marcade, Lizel and Gil resume their journey, having promised Judge's grandfather to protect Judge along the way. But danger soon catches up to them when a strange group of bandits called the Forky Gang attacks in the middle of the night! It quickly becomes clear that someone is targeting Lizel... but who could it be, and for what reason? As always, former noble and current adventurer Lizel takes all new developments in stride in his usual, laid-back fashion. He's celebrating his promotion from a simple E-rank to a D-rank adventurer — and setting his sights on ranking up again soon!

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Ossan Idol, Volume 5

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OSSAN 36 GA IDOL NI NARUHANASHI 5
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STOP

THIS IS THE BACK OF THE BOOK!

How do you read manga-style? It's simple! Let's practice -- just start in the top right panel and follow the numbers below!

Crimson from ***Kamo*** / Fairy Cat from ***Grimms Manga Tales***
Morrey from ***Goldfisch*** / Princess Ai from ***Princess Ai***